



NOTA DE PRENSA

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Commander of U.S. Southern Command Visits Peru

LIMA, January 23, 2013 — [U.S. Marine Corps General John Kelly](#), commanding general of [U.S. Southern Command](#), completed a two-day visit to Peru today that included meetings with senior defense and government officials to discuss shared security concerns and cooperation. During the visit, the general listened to the perspectives and ideas of Peruvian leaders on areas of mutual interest including ways to strengthen military partnerships, enhance regional collaboration, and contribute to shared security goals.

General Kelly met with [President Ollanta Humala](#), Minister of Defense Pedro Cateriano, Vice Minister of Defense Mario Sanchez, and Peruvian Chief of Defense [Admiral Jose Cueto](#). The visit is Kelly's second to Peru, but his first since [assuming duties as head of U.S. Southern Command in Miami on November 19](#), 2012. His first visit was with then Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta on October 2012.

The United States and Peru have a long history of defense cooperation and routinely work together to support law enforcement operations against [illicit trafficking and transnational organized crime](#), to provide humanitarian and civic assistance during exercises like [New Horizons](#), and to participate in capacity-building activities and training exchanges.

Before commanding U.S. Southern Command, General Kelly served as Senior Military Advisor to [U.S. Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta](#).

U.S. Southern Command, one of six U.S. geographically-focused [unified commands](#), is responsible for U.S. military operations and security cooperation with partner nations in the Caribbean, Central America, and South America.

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